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THE WORLD'S PEACE CONGRESS.

We sent the jointly made report of the great Paris Congress to most of our subscribers as it appeared in the *London Herald of Peace*, and present the same amended and enlarged in the present number of the *Advocate*, the issue of which was delayed until the Editor should have returned from Europe. The differences of procedure, the difficulties of a foreign language (French), and the very earnestness of the debates make anything like a printed transcript of things said and done exceedingly difficult. It was forty-one years since the first Congress at Brussels and forty since the one over which Victor Hugo presided in Paris. The earlier occasions were more novel and secured greater public notice and called out more popular demonstrations. But no meeting of the special advocates of Peace has marked such a general advance of their principles or has been in closer touch with the governments of Christendom than that at Paris, June 23–27, 1889.

It was necessary to observe limits both in discussion and action that might be thought somewhat narrow at a free conference of radical reformers in Great Britain or America. The Congress was called under the auspices of the French Government and held its first session in a national and its others in a municipal hall in the chief city of France. To attack either the internal or foreign policy of that Government would have been discourteous and suicidal.

But the military policy of France is that of Europe. Nations are naturally jealous of any interference, by way of adverse criticism by foreigners, upon their laws, customs or policies. Every declaration of general principles must be so framed as not to be capable of such a construction as will interfere with national self-control or "autonomy" as it is designated.

We print elsewhere the resolutions adopted, which if they are not as explicit in all points—especially military expansion, expenditure and disarmament—as we desired, are perhaps as much so as we could expect.

The absence of Germany from the Congress was significant and in every way to be regretted. The transfer from France to Germany of Alsace-Lorraine without a vote of the inhabitants, though in payment of a war-debt incurred by the alleged fault of France, is still the sensitive and sore point in European politics. Even the pronounced peace men of the two countries sharply differ on that point, and though they would undoubtedly resist an appeal to arms, many of them are hardly in a position

to amicably discuss a settlement. Persons and even societies outside of the two nations most deeply concerned are at liberty to make suggestions and fraternally urge a compromise. To most English and Americans it seems that neutralization is the key to the situation.

The attitude of Northern Italy is remarkable. The editors, statesmen and publicists of that entire region are pressing the policy of peace upon the government of that united but impoverished nation. That the movement is popular, is shown by the multiplication of Peace Societies, the opposition to the triple alliance, and the persistently friendly attitude towards France, notwithstanding recent complications which seem to throw the two countries into natural antagonism. All of the so called lesser powers are favorable to peace and nearly all of them were ably represented in the Congress.

Our own delegation (American Peace Society), while it was less numerous and weighty than it would have been had all our delegates been upon the ground, was highly respected, carefully consulted, active and influential. A paper on "*The New Sympathy of the Nations*," prepared by Secretary Howard, was favorably received in the French version, endorsed and recommended for publication by the 'Commission' to which it was submitted. Several addresses of the Secretary made during the discussion were delivered in both the English and French languages and were well received.

Dr. A. A. Miner's paper, in favor of limiting conscription to persons of property, was received with applause and printed. All his addresses commanded marked attention and evidently secured conviction. Dr. R. H. Thomas of Baltimore participated earnestly and effectively in the discussions. Messrs. Gilman of Massachusetts, Cummings of Harvard University and Chamberlin of Colorado, participated in the proceedings of some of the most important sessions of the Congress. The delegation paid their respects to the American Legation on invitation of Hon. Whitelaw Reid, our minister to France, to whom we were frequently indebted for helpful courtesies.

Other American Societies were represented; the Universal Peace Union, with headquarters at Philadelphia, by two ladies, Mrs. Belva Lockwood of Washington, D. C., and Rev. Mrs. Amanda Deyo of Oxford, New York. Both delegates were received with marked courtesy and both submitted papers on important subjects and actively participated in the discussions. The Christian Arbitration Society of Philadelphia was represented by its indefatigable Secretary, Mr. John B. Wood, whose contagious energy was not only felt in the public meetings, but also in bringing the delegates together socially and thus promoting mutual acquaintance and co-operation, one of the most desirable and difficult things to attain, especially when, as in this case, nearly all members of the

Congress were personally strangers and unfamiliar with each other's languages.

Our delegation was invited to a reception by M. Carnot, President of France, and also to one given by M. Yves Guyot, the minister of public works, and to the public unveiling of a copy of Bartholdi's statue in New York harbor, on an island in the Seine, and a subsequent banquet given by the city of Paris on the fourth of July at the Hotel de Ville—and also a reception by the American minister and his wife at their home on the same evening. They also met leading English peace advocates in London by invitation of Mr. Hodgson Pratt at the Liberal Club, and again at the private residence of Mr. Walter Hazell, Treasurer of the London Peace Society, which through its Secretary, Mr. W. Evans Darby, and other officials extended every possible courtesy to your representatives. The London meetings were held both before and after the Paris Congress, which adjourned to meet in London next year.

M. Frederic Passy, the President of the leading French Peace Society and President of the World's Congress, was untiring in his public duties and private attentions. He is an honored member of the French Institute and of the National Parliament. His hospitable mansion, generous table and delightful family at Neuilly welcomed us. His public addresses and administrations and his more private conversations and advice will never be forgotten. He is a grand specimen of a genuine French Republican, as well as a lifelong advocate of peace, and our acquaintance with him served to confirm our hope of the permanent self-government of that polite and brave people.

The English Monarchy together with the other Monarchies of Europe declined to participate in the opening of the French Exposition. They were invited to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the French Republic of 1789. Two hundred and four liberal and radical members of the British House of Commons then addressed a note to President Carnot and the French people, expressing sympathy with the great objects of the Exposition. M. Passy and two hundred and fifty members of the French Chamber of Deputies replied in a similar spirit as follows: "Be assured, gentlemen, that the incident which gave rise to your action did not leave in our minds as regards Great Britain any feeling of unjust resentment, but even had it been otherwise your memorial would have been the means not only of banishing any bitter memory, but also of replacing it by the warmest and sincerest gratitude. It is impossible, gentlemen, that divergency of views and interests should not at times arise between the best of nations, as between the best of families and individuals; but when hearts and minds are tenanted by reason and kindness, clouds roll away and difficulties are smoothed, and this, thanks to your action, gentlemen, we are again led to perceive."

—Up to Oct. 1, over seventeen and a half millions of people have visited the Paris Exposition, an increase of more than eight millions over the number in the corresponding period at the Exposition in Paris in 1878. And yet there were some who predicted that the Eiffel Tower would be a failure.

THE PARIS AND AMERICAN EXHIBITIONS AND PEACE.

Hon. Chauncey M. Depew, one of the ablest and most brilliant of our public men, on his return from Europe, characteristically said that Americans do not at all appreciate the magnitude of the World's Exposition which closes October 31. He calls attention to the fact that nothing comparatively has been written of the International Congresses held in Paris this summer and autumn by invitation of the French Government, and which are certain to have such a marked effect on the intellectual life of the world. Of these there were one hundred and sixty-nine, covering almost every subject of thought, invention or investigation. These Congresses appointed committees, started lines of inquiry, provided for future meetings and did everything except telegraph their unsensational proceedings to the sensational press. Among these Congresses, the Universal Peace Congress was confessedly eminent. But as its discussions touched the present sensitive political and military condition of Europe at almost every point, it was compelled by courtesy to France and its regard to its own influence on practical questions to move with great prudence and discretion. But its deliberations were free and its outcome all that could be expected. It has apparently paved the way for its own wider recognition and weightier practical influence on the war-making powers than any of its predecessors. This, not because it was richer in the *personnel* of its members, more thorough in its debates, or its conclusions more widely published and read, but because it gave expression to the spirit of the time,—the aspiration that stirs the hearts of the coming generation of thoughtful young men. It marked an era in the protest of civilized men against the barbarism of war.

Eighteen hundred and ninety-two will witness, we trust, in America similar Congresses called and cared for by our Government, where our own people can see and hear the world's leading spirits—its experts in every line of modern inquiry. But especially and emphatically should America celebrate the year of her discovery by taking the place to which the suffrages of the world seem to have spontaneously elected her, viz., *its leader in the example and championship of peace*.

To this end our legislation should be adapted, so that the new century, nineteen hundred, may at its opening exhibit this consummate flower of civilization.

RUSSIAN PRISONS.

The Russian Government has decided to give a prize of 2000 francs and a large gold medal for the best work on the subject of "John Howard in the History of Prison Reform," as a mark of respect for the eminent British philanthropist, who died at Kherson, in South Russia, in 1790, after doing much toward the improvement of Russian prisons. "A living dog is better than a dead lion." It is well to recognize Howard's noble work. It would be better to reform the whole present system of Russian prisons for political offenders as depicted by the pen of Kennan. Russia deserves, and will receive, the abhorrence of mankind till she treats prisoners less cruelly and barbarously.